

U.S. Serial No. 09/462,846

APPENDIX II

CLEAN VERSION OF THE ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED IN THIS COMMUNICATION

The following is a list of the Claims as they would appear following entry of this amendment.

1. (Twice Amended) A *Bacillus subtilis* having a mutation or deletion of part or all of the gene encoding cysteine protease-1 CP1, wherein said gene encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said mutation or deletion results in the inactivation of the CP1 proteolytic activity.

6. (Thrice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 1, wherein said *Bacillus subtilis* is capable of expressing a heterologous protein.

7. (Twice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 6, wherein said heterologous protein is selected from the group consisting of hormones, enzymes, growth factors, and cytokines.

8. (Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 7 wherein said heterologous protein is an enzyme.

9. (Twice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 8 wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of proteases, carbohydrases, lipases, isomerases, racemases, epimerases, tautomerases, mutases, transferases, kinases and phosphatases.

13. (Six Times Amended) A method for the production of a heterologous protein in a transformed *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding said heterologous protein wherein said host cell contains a mutation or deletion in the gene encoding *B. subtilis* cysteine protease-1, wherein said gene encoding cysteine protease-1 encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said mutation or deletion results in the inactivation of the cysteine protease-1 proteolytic activity; and

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(b) growing said *Bacillus subtilis* host cell under conditions suitable for the expression of said heterologous protein.

20. (Thrice Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said gene encoding cysteine protease-1 comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.